

## F I C

So having said, he thus to Eve in *few*:  
 Say, woman, what is this which thou hast done? *Milton.*  
 Thus Jupiter in few unfolds the charge. *Dryden's Æn.*  
 The firm resolve I here in few disclose. *Pope's Odyssey.*

**FÆWEL.** *n. f.* [*few*, French.] Combustible matter; materials for keeping fire: as firewood, coal.  
 If a spark of error have thus far prevailed, falling even where the wood was green, and farthest off from any inclination unto furious attempts, must not the peril thereof be greater in men, whose minds are as dry *fewel*, apt beforehand unto tumults, seditions and broils? *Hooker, Dedicat.*  
 Others may give the *fewel* or the fire;  
 But they the breath, that makes the flame, inspire. *Denham.*  
 A known quantity of *fewels*, all kindled at once, will cause water to boil, which being lighted gradually will never be able to do it. *Bentley's Sermons.*

To **FÆWEL.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To feed with *fewel*. *Cowley.*  
 Never, alas! the dreadful name,  
 That *fewels* the infernal flame.

**FÆWNES.** *n. f.* [from *few*.]  
 1. Paucity; smallness of number.  
 Thele, by reason of their *fewness*, I could not distinguish from the numbers of the rest with whom they are embodied. *Dryden's Preface to the Hind and Panther.*  
 2. Paucity of words; brevity; conciseness.  
*Fewness* and truth, 'tis thus. *Shakef. Meas. for Measure.*

To **FÆV.** *v. a.* [*veghen*, Dutch.] To cleanse a ditch of mud.  
 Such muddy deep ditches and pits in the field,  
 That all a dry Summer no water will yield,  
 By *feying* and casting that mud upon heaps,  
 Commodities many the husbandman reaps. *Tissot's Husband.*

**FIB.** *n. f.* [A cant word among children.] A lie; a falsehood.  
 Dethroy his *fib* or topfihury; in vain,  
 The creature's at his dirty work again. *Pope's Epistles.*  
 I to often lie,  
 Scarce Harvey's self has told more *fib*s than I. *Pope.*

To **FIB.** *v. n.* [from the noun.] To lie; to tell lies; to speak falsely.

If you have any particular mark, whereby one may know when you *fib*, and when you speak truth, you had best tell it me: *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

**FIBBER.** *n. f.* [from *fib*.] A teller of fibs.  
**FIBRE.** *n. f.* [*fibre*, Fr. *fibra*, Latin.] A small thread or string; the first constituent parts of bodies.  
 Now sliding streams the thirsty plants renew,  
 And feed their *fibres* with reviving dew. *Pope.*

2. A *fibre*, in physics, is an animal thread, of which there are different kinds: some are soft, flexible, and a little elastick; and these are either hollow, like small pipes, or spongiouse and full of little cells, as the nervous and fleshy *fibres*: others are more solid, flexible, and with a strong elasticity or spring, as the membranous and cartilaginous *fibres*: and a third sort are hard and flexible, as the *fibres* of the bones. Now of all those some are very fenible, and others destitute of all sense: some to very small as not to be easily perceived; and others, on the contrary, to big as to be plainly seen; and most of them, when examined with a microscope, appear to be composed of still smaller *fibres*: these *fibres* first constitute the substance of the bones, cartilages, ligaments, membranes, nerves, veins, arteries and muscles. And again, by the various texture and different combination of some or all of those parts, the more compound organs are framed; such as the lungs, stomach, liver, legs and arms, the sum of all which make up the body. *Quincy.*

My heart sinks in me while I hear him speak,  
 And every slacken'd *fibre* drops its hold,  
 Like nature letting down the springs of life:  
 The name of father awes me still. *Dryd. Spanish Fryar.*

**FIBRIL.** *n. f.* [*fibrille*, French.] A small fibre or string.  
 The muscles consist of a number of *fibres*, and each fibre of an incredible number of little *fibrils* bound together, and divided into little cells. *Cheyne's 1<sup>st</sup> Prin.*

**FIBROSUS.** *adj.* [*fibreux*, French, from *fibre*.] Composed of fibres or lamina.

The difference between bodies *fibrous* and bodies viscidous is plain; for all wool and tow, and cotton and silk, have a greediiness of moisture. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
 I saw Petreus' arms employ'd around  
 A well-grown oak, to root it from the ground;  
 This way and that he wrench'd the *fibrous* bands,  
 The trunk was like a sapling in his hands. *Dryden.*

The *fibrous* and solid parts of plants pass unaltered through the intestines. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

**FIBULA.** *n. f.* [Latin.] The outer and lesser bone of the leg, much smaller than the tibia: it lies on the outside of the leg; and its upper end, which is not so high as the knee, receives the lateral knob of the upper end of the tibia into a small sinus, which it has in its inner side. Its lower end it received into the small sinus of the tibia, and then it extend into a large process, which forms the outer ankle. *Quincy.*

**FICKLE.** *adj.* [*picol*, Saxon.]

1. Changeable; unconstant; irrefolute; wavering; unsteady; mutable; changeful; without steady adherence.

## F I D

Remember where we are,  
In France amongst a *fickle* wavering nation. *Shak. Hen. VI.*  
A slave, whose early borrow'd pride  
Dwells in the *fickle* grace of her he follows. *Shak. K. Lear.*  
Or likeli hovering dreams,  
The *fickle* penionsers of Morpheus' train. *Milton.*  
They know how *fickle* common lovers are;  
Their oaths and vows are cautiously believ'd;  
For few there are but have been once deceiv'd. *Dryden.*  
We in vain the *fickle* sex pursue,  
Who change the constant lover for the new. *Prior.*

2. Not fixed; subject to vicissitude.  
He would be loth  
Us to abolish; left the adversity  
Triumph, and say, *fickle* their state, whom God  
Most favours! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*

**FICKLENESS.** *n. f.* [from *fickle*.] Inconstancy; uncertainty;  
unsteadiness.  
Neither her great worthiness, nor his own suffering for her,  
could fether his *fickleness*; but, before his marriage-day, he had  
taken to wife that Baccha of whom the complained. *Stanley.*  
Beware of fraud, beware of *fickleness*,  
In choice and change of thy dear loved dame. *Fairy Queen.*  
I am a soldier, and unapt to weep,  
Or to exclaim on fortune's *fickleness*. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*  
Infidelity of temper ought to be checked, when it dis-  
poses men to wander from one scheme of government to  
another, since such a *fickleness* cannot but be attended with  
fatal consequences. *Addison's Freeholders, N<sup>o</sup>. 25.*  
Whether out of *fickleness* or design I can't tell, I found  
that what the liked one day the disliked another. *Addison.*

**FICKLY.** *adv.* [from *fickle*.] Without certainty or stability.  
Do not now,  
Like a young wasteful heir, mortgage the hopes  
Of godlike majesty on bankrupt terms,  
To raise a present pow'r that's *fickly* held  
By the frail tenure of the people's will. *Southern.*

**FICO.** *n. f.* [Italian.] An act of contempt done with the  
fingers, expressing a *fig* for you.  
Having once recovered his fortrefs, he then gives the *fig*  
to all that his adversaries can by force, force, or famine at-  
tempt against him. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*

**FICTILE.** *adj.* [*fictilis*, Latin.] Moulded into form; manu-  
factured by the potter.  
The cause of fragility is an impotency to be extended;  
and therefore stone is more fragil than metal, and so *fictile*  
earth is more fragil than crude earth. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

**FICTITIOUS.** *n. f.* [*fictio*, Latin; *fictitious*, French.]  
1. The act of feigning or inventing.  
If the presence of God in the image, by a mere *fictio* of  
the mind, be a sufficient ground to worship that image, is not  
God's real presence in every creature a far better ground to  
worship it? *Stillingfleet.*  
*Fictio* is of the essence of poetry, as well as of painting:  
there is a resemblance in one of human bodies, things, and  
actions, which are not real; and in the other of a true story  
by a *fictio*. *Dryden's Duffessy.*

2. The thing feigned or invented.  
If through mine ears pierce any consolations,  
By wife discourse, sweet tunes, or poets *fictions*;  
If ought I cease these hideous exclamations,  
While that my soul, she, the lives in affliction. *Stanley.*  
So also was the *fictio* of those golden apples kept by  
dragon, taken from the serpent, which tempted Evah. *Raleigh.*

3. A falsehood; a lye.  
**FICTITIOUS** *adj.* [*fictus*, Latin.] Fictitious; imaginary; in-  
vented. A word coined by *Prior*.  
With fancy'd rules and arbitrary laws  
Matter and motion man restrains,  
And study'd lines and *fictitious* circles draws. *Prior.*

**FICTITIOUSLY.** *adv.* [*fictitious*, Latin.]  
1. Counterfeit; false; not genuine.  
Draw him strictly fo,  
That all who view the piece may know  
He needs no trappings of *fictitious* fame. *Dryden.*

2. Feigned; imaginary.  
The human persons are as *fictitious* as the airy ones; and  
Belinda resembles you in nothing but in beauty. *Pope.*

3. Not real; not true.  
Milton, sensible of this defect in the subject of his poem,  
brought into it two characters of a shadowy and *fictitious* na-  
ture, in the persons of sin and death, by which means he has  
interwoven in his fable a very beautiful allegory. *Addis Spect.*

**FICTITIOUSLY.** *adv.* [from *fictitious*.] Falsely; counter-  
feitedly.  
These pieces are *fictitiously* set down, and have no copy in  
nature. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v. c. 10.*

**FID.** *n. f.* [*fitta*, Italian.] A pointed iron with which seamen  
untwist their cords. *Skinner.*

**FIDDLE.** *n. f.* [*feyde*, Saxon; *veedel*, Dutch; *fidol*, German;  
*fidelula*, Latin; *fidle*, Erse.]  
1. A stringed instrument of musick; a violin.

F I E

In trials of musical skill the judges did not crown the *fiddle*,  
but the performer. *Stillington.*

The adventure of the bear and *fiddle*  
Is sung; but breaks off in the middle. *Hudibras.*

She tried the *fiddle* all over; by drawing the bow over every  
part of the strings; but could not, for her heart, find where-  
about the tune lay. *Addison's Guardian*, N<sup>o</sup>. 98.

To *FIDDLE*. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To play upon a fiddle.

Themiffoles being defired at a feaft to touch a lute, he  
said he could not *fiddle*, but he could make a small town a  
great city. *Bacon's Effays.*

Others import yet nobler arts from France,  
Teach kings to *fiddle*, and make fenates dance. *Pope.*

2. To trifle; to shift the hands often, and do nothing, like a  
fellow that plays upon a fiddle.

A cunning fellow obferved, that old Lewis had ftole away  
part of the map, and faw him *fiddling* and turning the map,  
trying to join the two pieces together. *Arbutn. H of J. Bull.*

Good cooks cannot abide what they juftly call *fiddling* work,  
where abundance of time is fpent, and little done. *Swift.*

*FIDDLEFADDLE*. *n. f.* [A cant word.] Trifles.

She faid that their grandfather had a horfe fhot at Edgehill,  
and their uncle was at the fiege of Buda; with abundance of  
*fiddlefaddle* of the fame nature. *Spectator*, N<sup>o</sup>. 299.

*FIDDLEFADDLE*. *adj.* Trifling; giving trouble, or making a  
buffle about nothing.

She was a troublefome *fiddlefaddle* old woman, and to cere-  
monious that there was no bearing of her. *Arbutn. J. Bull.*

*FIDDLER*. *n. f.* [from *fiddle*.] A mufician; one that plays  
upon the fiddle.

Let no fawcy *fiddler* presume to intrude,  
Unless he is fent for to vary our blifs. *Ben. Johnson.*

Nero put the *fiddlers* to death, for being more fkillful in the  
trade than he was. *Taylor's Rule of living holy.*

There will appear fuch chits in ftory,  
'Twill turn all politics to jells,  
To be repeated like John Dory,  
When *fiddlers* fing at feasts. *Dryden.*

When mifs delights in her fpinnet,  
A *fiddler* may a fortune get. *Swift.*

*FIDDLESTICK*. *n. f.* [*fiddle* and *stick*.] The bow and hair  
which a fiddler draws over the strings of a fiddle.

His grifty beard was long and thick,  
With which he frung his *fiddlestick*. *Hudibras*, p. i.

*FIDDLESTRING*. *n. f.* [*fiddle* and *string*.] The ftring of a  
fiddle; that which makes the noife.

A *fiddlestring*, moiftened with water, will fink a note in a  
little time, and confequently muft be relaxed or lengthened  
one fixteenth. *Arbutnot on Air.*

*FIDELITY*. *n. f.* [*fideltas*, Latin; *fidelit *, French.]

1. Honesty; veracity.

The church, by her publick reading of the book of God,  
preached only as a witnefs; now the principal thing required  
in a witnefs is a *fidality*. *Hooker*, b. v. f. 19.

2. Faithful adherence.

They miftake credulity for *fidality*. *Clarke.*

To *FIDGE*. *v. n.* [A cant word.] To move mimbly and  
To *FIDGEET*. *v. n.* irregularly. It implies in Scotland agitation.

Tim, thou'rt the Funch to ftir up trouble in;  
You wriggle, *fidge*, and make a rout,  
Put all your brother puppets out;  
Run on in a perpetual round,  
To teaze, perplex, difturb, confound. *Swift.*

*FIDUCIAL*. *adj.* [*fiducia*, Latin.] Confident; undoubting.

Faith is cordial, and fuch as God will accept of, when it  
affords *fiducial* reliance on the promifes, and obediential fub-  
miffion to the commands. *Hammond's Praef. Catech.*

*FIDUCIARY*. *n. f.* [*fiduciarius*, Latin.]

1. One who holds any thing in truft.

2. One who depends on faith without works.

The fecond obftructive is that of the *fiduciary*, that faith  
is the only inftrument of his justification; and excludes good  
works from contributing any thing toward it. *Hammond.*

*FIDUCIARY*. *adj.*

1. Confident; fteady; undoubting; untouched with doubt.

That faith, which is required of us, is then perfect, when  
it produces in us a *fiduciary* alient to whatever the Gospel has  
revealed. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

2. Not to be doubted.

Eliana can rely no where upon mere love and *fiduciary*  
obedience, unlefs at her own home, where he is exemplarily  
loyal to herfelf in a high exact obedience. *Hawell's Voc. Forfeff.*

*FIEF*. *n. f.* [*feff*, French.] A fee; a manor; a poffeffion  
held by fome tenure of a fuperiour.

To the next realm the fretch'd her fway,  
For painture near adjoining lay,  
A plenteous province and alluring prey;  
A chamber of dependencies was fram'd,  
And the whole *fief*, in right of poetry, the claim'd. *Dryd.*

As they were honoured by great privileges, for their lands  
were in the nature of *fiefs*, for which the poffeffors were  
obliged to do perfonal fervice at fea. *Arbutnot on Caim.*

## F I E

**FIELD.** *n. f.* [feld, Saxoh; *feld*, German; *veld*, Dutcl.]  
1. Ground not inhabited; not built on.  
Live with me, and be my love,  
And we will all the pleasure prove,  
That hills and valleys; dale and *field*,  
And all the craggy mountains yield. *Ralegh*  
By the civil law the corpse of persons deceased were buried  
out of the city in the *fields*. *Ayliffe's Parergon*.  
2. Ground not enclosed.  
*Field* lands are not exempted from mildews, nor yet from  
fmut, where it is more than in inclosed lands. *Mortin's Husb*.  
3. Cultivated tract of ground.  
Or great *Olifirs*, who first taught the fowin'  
In Pharian fields to sow the golden grain. *Pope's Statius*.  
4. The open country: opposed to quarters.  
Since his majesty went into the *fields*,  
I have seen her rifle from her bed. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.  
5. The ground of battle.  
What though the *field* be lost,  
All is not lost. *Addison's Paradise Lost*, l. i.  
When a man is in the *field*, a moderate skill in fencing rather  
exposes him to the sword of his enemy than secures him  
from it. *Locke*.  
6. A battle; a campaign; the action of an army while it keeps  
the field.  
You maintain several factions;  
And whilst a *field* should be dispatch'd and fought,  
You are disputing of your generals. *Shakespeare's Henry VI*.  
7. A wide expanse.  
The god a clearer space for heav'n design'd;  
Where *fields* of light and liquid ether flow,  
Purg'd from the pond'rous dregs of earth below. *Dryden*.  
Ask of yonder argent fields above,  
Why Jove's fatellites are less than Jove. *Pope's Essay on Man*.  
8. Space; compass; extent.  
The ill-natured man gives himself a large *field* to expatiate  
in: he exposes failings in human nature. *Addison's Spectator*.  
I should enter upon a *field* too wide, and too much beaten,  
if I should display all the advantages of peace. *Smolridge*.  
Who can this *field* of miracles survey,  
And not with Galen all in rapture lay,  
Behold a God, adore him and obey. *Blackmore's Creation*.  
9. The ground or blank space on which figures are drawn:  
Let the *field* or ground of the picture be clean, light, and  
well united with colour. *Dryden's Duffrenoy*.  
10. [In heraldry.] The surface of a shield.  
**FIELDED.** *adj.* [from *field*.] Being in field of battle.  
Now, Mars, I pry thee, make us quick in work;  
That we with smoking swords may march from hence,  
To help our *field* friends. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.  
**FIELD-BASIL.** *n. f.* [*field* and *basil*.] A plant with a labiated  
flower, consisting of one leaf, whose upper lip is upright,  
roundish, and generally split in two; but the beard, or under  
lip, is divided into three segments: these flowers are disposed  
in whorles round the stalks, and are succeeded by oblong  
seeds. *Miller*.  
**FIELDBED.** *n. f.* [*field* and *bed*.] A bed contrived to be fet up  
easily in the field.  
Romeo, good-night; I'll to my trucklebed.  
This *field*bed is too cold for me to sleep. *Shak. Rom. and Jul*.  
**FIELDFARE.** *n. f.* [feld and faran, to wander in the fields.]  
A bird.  
Winter birds, as woodcocks and *fieldfares*, if they come  
early out of the northern countries, with us shew cold  
Winters. *Bacon's Natural History*, No. 816.  
**FIELDMARSHAL.** *n. f.* [*field* and *marshal*.] Commander of  
an army in the field.  
**FIELDMOUSE.** *n. f.* [*field* and *mouse*.] A mouse that bur-  
rows in banks, and makes her house with various apart-  
ments.  
The *fieldmouse* builds her garner under ground. *Dryden*.  
*Fieldmice* are apt to gnaw their roots, and kill them in hard  
Winters. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.  
**FIELDOFFICER.** *n. f.* [*field* and *officer*.] An officer whose  
command in the field extends to a whole regiment: as the  
colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major.  
**FIELDPICE.** *adj.* [*field* and *pice*.] Small cannon used in  
battles, but not in sieges.  
The *bassia* planting his *fieldpieces* upon the hills on the  
North-side, did from thence grievously annoy the defendants.  
*Kroeker's History of the Turks*.  
**FIEND.** *n. f.* [fiens, fiend, Saxon; a foe.]  
1. An enemy; the great enemy of mankind; Satan; the devil.  
Tom is followed by the foul *fiend*. *Shakespeare's K. Lear*.  
2. Any infernal being.  
What now, had I a body again, I could,  
Coming from hell; what *fiends* would with should be,  
And Hannibal could not have withsd to see. *B. Johnson's Cat*.  
The hell-hounds, as ungorg'd with flesh and blood,  
Pursue their prey, and seek their wonted food;  
The *fiend* remounts his courser. *Dryden's Thea. and Hon.*  
O woman